



The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman, Senate Armed Service Committee Seapower Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

September 7, 2017

Dear Chairman Wicker:

Thank you for sending your Senior Defense Policy Advisor, James Mazol, to visit Newport News Shipbuilding during the August Congressional Recess.

As a proud supplier for U.S. Navy aircraft carrier construction and maintenance, I am delighted that James had the opportunity to tour the shipyard and discuss the aircraft carrier construction and maintenance program.

I had the pleasure of hearing you speak at the Aircraft Carrier Industrial Base Coalition's Action Days 2017 as well as sit with you for dinner following your remarks. Here at Trident LLC we look forward to continuing to build aircraft carriers, which you called "marvels of defense engineering and manufacturing," and are "recognized as the centerpiece of American seapower," and hope that you will continue to be an ally as we push toward a larger Navy fleet.

Toward that end, and as a follow up to James' visit, I urge you to support a multi-ship procurement strategy for the construction of the next generation of U.S. Navy *Gerald R. Ford*-class aircraft carriers.

My company requests an additional \$520 million in Advance Procurement for the Carrier Replacement Program in the fiscal year 2018 authorization and appropriations process. We are concerned with the House of Representatives' version of the defense appropriations bill, which did not include language for the multi-ship buy for aircraft carriers.

Trident Maritime Systems, in Pascagoula, MS, is part of the industrial base that supplies parts and services for aircraft carrier construction and maintenance. Specifically, Trident Maritime Systems provides deck covering, hanger bay insulation and habitability items. In total, my company has received nearly \$13 million in the past five years for work relating to the aircraft carrier program.

A multi-ship purchase approach for the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier fleet will also save American taxpayers more than \$1.5 billion, approximately \$500 million per ship.

To meet the dual objectives to lower the cost of carrier construction and increase the size of the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier fleet, a multi-ship approach maximizes the material procurement savings benefit through economic order quantities (EOQ) procurement and provides labor efficiencies. Building aircraft carriers at an economically-optimal rate not only meets these two objectives it also supports thousands of jobs in Mississippi and across the country.

This skilled workforce of men and women from Mississippi and your community would greatly benefit from the accelerated build rate. A multi-ship purchase will send a clear signal to these companies: to invest in new equipment and technology, acquire raw materials in economic quantities, and hire more and train skilled workers.

Mississippi's industrial base is committed to building U.S. Navy aircraft carriers at the lowest cost with the greatest efficiency. This is exactly what the multi-ship purchase approach does. It leverages potential efficiencies in the aircraft carrier industrial base to reduce construction costs on future *Ford*-class carriers, a critical objective given the fiscally constrained shipbuilding budget.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to watching your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Mike Miller*

Vice President, Business Development  
Trident LLC